

# Daily Report

#### LAST ISSUE

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LAST ISSUE

# Sub-Saharan Africa

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FBIS-AFR-96-155 Friday 9 August 1996

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West Europe Economic Review

2 September East Asia, East Europe, East Europe Economic Review

16 September Central Eurasia, Central Eurasia Military Affairs,

Central Eurasia Economic Review

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#### Burundi

Burundi: Minister 'Surprised' by Degree of Opposition to Coup

AB0808144996 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Aug 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Ama Annan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The moves to impose sanctions on Burundi following the Army takeover by Pierre Buyoya last month is gaining momentum. Tanzania got the bali rolling, followed by Kenya and Uganda, and now even the Tutsi-dominated government in neighboring Rwanda says it will also in due course impose sanctions. The coup leaders in Bujumbura initially said they weren't worried by moves to impose the blockade. Now, though, with prices rising and shortages increasing they appear not to be so sure. Well, on the line now, I am joined by Burundi's foreign minister Luc Rukingama.

[Annan] Good morning, Mr. Rukingama.

[Rukingama] Good morning, madam.

[Annan] Well, as the sanctions begin to bite, don't you think you've misjudged the degree of opposition within the region to the military takeover?

[Rukingama] I beg your pardon, would you mind repeating?

[Annan] Do you think that.... [pauses] Have you been surprised by the degree of opposition to the military takeover in Burundi?

[Rukingama] Yes, it is quite surprising, because the change that has taken place in Burundi came in a situation in which there was no other possibility. As you must know, many parties had retired their confidence to the former president, and breaking the government convention because of which President Ntibantunganya was the president of the Republic of Burundi. [sentence as heard] And, as from that moment, many people — students, pupils, workers — spent their time marching in the streets of Bujumbura and in the streets of the main cities up country...

[Annan, interrupting] But, can I just ask you, I mean the regional leaders say they want you to unban political parties and to restore the national....[pauses] I mean, why don't you do that and save your people the pain of sanctions?

[Rukingama] If you ask the population their point of view, they will explain to you that the political parties have got many difficulties to settle the crisis, and as they failed, I think for the time being it's better to

organize a national debate which will decide about the new institutions and about the way to reorganize the political parties.

[Annan] But, these sanctions are hurting, aren't they?

[Rukingama] Pardon?

[Annan] The sanctions are hurting the country of Burundi and the people of Burundi.

[Rukingama] Yes, the sanctions are causing much damage to the population of Burundi — that is right — and these sanctions, you know, are not adding anything to the peace process. On the contrary, [passage indistinct].

#### Burundi: Commerce Minister Urges Calm, Sacrifices To Face Embargo

EA0808230696 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Frederic Nzabampema, the minister of commerce, industry, and tourism, this afternoon met members of various ministries to discuss the embargo, and to collect proposals for dealing with the problem. The minister of commerce was accompanied by the Burundian Central Bank governor, and the secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce. Nadine Ndayisaba reports.

[Ndayisaba] The minister of commerce, industry and tourism said many steps are being taken to persuade neighboring countries which have decided to enforce the embargo on Burundi from doing so. He cited diplomatic, economic, and judicial steps among these, and said a commission has been set up to regularly follow up the economic effects of the embargo. The minister stressed that there are enough stocks to last some months.

Several participants pointed out that the embargo imposed on our country means the continuation of a policy of exclusion which, consequently, will not facilitate the restoration of peace. In this connection, they emphasized that the former mediator and facilitator in the Burundian conflict, former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere is no longer credible since he has already taken sides in the conflict. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the minister of commerce, industry and tourism called on the officials not to panic in the face of the current crisis, and to accept sacrifices in order to overcome the embargo.

#### Cameroon

#### Cameroon To Disregard Nigerian Newspaper Reports on Bakassi

AB0808181496 Paris AFP in French 1551 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yaounde, 8 Aug (AFP) — Well-informed sources said in Yaounde today that the Cameroonian authorities do not intend to react to the news reported by three Nigerian newspapers today that Cameroon is preparing to launch new attacks against Nigerian positions in the Bakassi Peninsula in the Gulf of Guinea in August.

The reaction would have been totally different if these assertions had been made by the Nigerian Government, the same source said, recalling that prior to the newspaper reports, Abuja seemed to take pleasure in playing a "media ping-pong game" with this dispute.

Quoting authorized sources, three Lagos-based Nigerian newspapers — the GUARDIAN, the DAILY CHAMPION, and the VANGUARD — said today that Yaounde is preparing to launch a new offensive on Bakassi. [passage omitted]

#### Chad

#### Chad: Deby Inaugurated, Several Foreign Dignitaries in Attendance

AB0808223696 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Poor reception precludes fuller processing]

[FBIS Translated Summary] "The major event today, as you know, is the inauguration of the president who was democratically elected on 3 July. The solemn inauguration ceremony took place at the 15 January Palace this morning."

"Seven African heads of state as well as several highlevel delegations attended the ceremony, notably Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon; Ange Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic; Pascal Lissouba of Congo; Ibrahim Bare Mainassara of Niger; 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir of Sudan; Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali; and Blaise Compaore of Burkina." Other dignitaries include the prime minister of Equatorial Guinea while Cameroonian President Paul Biya was represented by the National Assembly speaker. As for Nigeria's Sani Abacha, he was represented by Alamin Musa Dagash [not further identified]. "There was also a Libyan delegation led by the people's secretary for defense, Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir while France was represented by its cooperation minister, Jacques Godfrain."

#### Rwanda

## Rwanda: Government Orders Closure of Border With Burundi

AB0808191496 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kigali, 8 Aug (AFP) — Rwanda announced Thursday [8 August] it was closing its frontier and cutting air connections with its neighbour Burundi following an announcement by Vice President Paul Kagame that Rwanda would soon announce the imposition of sanctions on Burundi.

Kagame said in New York earlier Thursday that Rwanda would announce sanctions in line with a decision of regional African states. The sanctions were called for by seven African leaders at a July 31 summit in Arusha, Tanzania after the coup by Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in Burundi on July 25.

### Rwanda: Government Closes Air, Land Borders With Burundi

EA0808225996 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 1800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the decisions of the recent Arusha summit which took place on 31 July, the Rwandan Government has made the decision to close its air and land borders with Burundi as of tomorrow, 9 August. The communique says the Bujumbura authorities must take steps to relaunch the Mwanza peace process and the Arusha initiative under the auspices of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. The communique points out that Rwanda believes that the initiatives constitute an appropriate mechanism which guarantees peace and security for the entire Burundian people. Rwanda will closely monitor the development of events in Burundi, and will cooperate with countries in the subregion to take additional measures if necessary. The communique adds that the Rwandan Government calls on all the country's institutions to implement the measures. The communique is signed by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Dr. Anastase Gasana.

## Rwanda: Britain's Chalker Meets President, Officials

EA0908103096 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 1800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The British minister for international cooperation [as heard], Lynda Chalker, who has been visiting our country since yesterday, today held talks with the country's senior officials. Mrs. Lynda Chalker was received by the Rwandan head of state,

Pasteur Bizimungu, accompanied by the Rwandan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Dr. Anastase Gasana.

Talks with the head of state, Pasteur Bizimungu, focused on the situation prevailing in the sub-region, in particular Burundi, and also on the situation in Rwanda.

It is worth recalling that before the meeting with the president of the Republic of Rwanda, the British minister had met the president of the National Assembly, Juvenal Nkusi, and the chairmen of the commissions of the Rwandan National Assembly. The talks dealt with the functioning of the Rwandan National Assembly, the problems currently faced by the Rwandan parliament and how the British parliament could help the Rwandan parliament through the European Union.

Mrs Lynda Chalker also met the Rwandan prime minister, Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema, accompanied by Rwandan minister of primary and secondary education, Laurent Ngirabanzi; Finance Minister Marc Rugenera; minister of higher learning, scientific research, and culture, Joseph Nsengimana; Health Minister Colonel Joseph Karemera; minister of transport and communications, Charles Muligande; and the director in the office of the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Edith Gasana.

Mrs Chalker's visit comes in the framework of assessing the steps taken by Rwanda in its efforts toward rehabilitation and reconstruction after the 1994 genocide and massacres.

The prime minister, Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema, first thanked the British Government for the grant given to Rwanda at the recent roundtable talks on Rwanda held in Geneva [words indistinct]. He also thanked the British Government for the donation of 14 fire engines which had been given to the Rwandan Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Rwandan prime minister briefed the British minister for international cooperation on areas of cooperation in which Great Britain could assist Rwanda. They are as follows:

Assistance to the Rwandan gendarmerie and police by providing them with equipment to help them maintain security.

Provision of education and laboratory materials to primary and secondary schools, English language teaching in primary and secondary schools, teacher training and assistance to the Rwandan national university.

Third, continue to assist the medical sector so that Rwanda gets well-trained personnel. The prime minister took the opportunity to thank the British Government for the substantial assistance already given to the Ministry of Health.

Fourth, contribute to next year's budget, and to training for civil servants who would [word indistinct] the public treasury.

The British minister for international cooperation promised that her country would assist Rwanda in all the above areas. Mrs. Lynda Chalker promised that Rwandan and British experts would study the areas of cooperation and their implementation.

#### Rwanda: AFP—Rwanda, Burundi Airlines Schedule Extra Flights

AB0808171296 Paris AFP in French 1601 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kigali, 8 Aug (AFP) — Rwandan and Burundian airlines have planned two additional flights between Bujumbura and Kigali tomorrow, as a result of the economic sanctions that have cut Burundi off from several countries in the region, the companies said today. There will be a total of three flights between the two capitals tomorrow, one by Rwanda Airways and two by Burundi Airways. To date, Rwanda has not imposed economic sanctions on Burundi, and it has not suspended road and air links with it, unlike Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia. [passage omitted].

#### Somalia

#### Somalia: Pro-Ato Faction Elders Call For Talks

EA0908115696 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali 1630 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A major six-hour meeting held by the council of elders of the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] at its headquarters discussed ways of resolving the current complex situation in Somalia. Following long debate and analysis the council passed a declaration comprising the following points:

- 1. They welcome the peace call made by the various Somali organizations and they hope this call will lead to a lasting peace.
- 2. The whole Habar Gidir clan should come together for talks to discuss the current situation in the country, and Habar Gidir affairs. [Both Osman Hassan Ali Ato and Hussein Mohamed Aidid, the son of Mohamed Farah Aidid, belong to the Habar Gidir clan].
- The elders call on Somali organizations and armed communities to come together for a great national reconciliation conference.

## Somalia: Osman Ato Says Preparations for Conference Under Way

AB0808195996 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 8 Aug (AFP) — Somali warlord Osman Ali "Ato" said Thursday [8 August] he would help organise a national conference to discuss power-sharing and reconciliation in Somalia following Mohamed Farah Aidid's death, but added that he did not recognise the leadership of Aidid's son, Hussein.

Ato said Hussein was not elected by a "Council of Elders" in Aidid's Habr Gedir clan and that he was not "part of Somalia's legitimate history." "He is not part and parcel of those who fought to oust (former dictator) Siad Barre, he came through the window," Ato said.

Ato, Aidid's former ally and financier who fell out with him last year and became his bitter foe, told a news conference here that the peace process in Somalia would "move faster" following his rival's death. [passage omitted]

Ato said he was consulting with other Somali elders who had in principle agreed to a national conference to be held probably "within a month". The elders and faction leaders would discuss the possibility of establishing a coalition government in Somalia.

Ato said a unilateral ceasefire that he and his ally Ali Mahdi Mohamed declared in Mogadishu following Aidid's death was holding but "fighting could start any time" if other factions did not respect the truce. He said members of the Rahanwein clan, who have been battling Aidid's forces in and around the town of Baidoa, northwest of Mogadishu, should continue fighting to regain their territory.

The Rahanwein Resistance Army on Sunday announced the recapture of Hoddur, a town near Baidoa, from Aidid's forces. A battle for Baidoa, the main centre of the fertile Juba River valley, is said to be looming. Aidid captured Baidoa from the Rahanwein clan in September at the head of a column of 600 men, but Rahanwein militiamen in north Mogadishu were streaming back to the front and were expected to make a bid soon to recapture the town.

#### Uganda

#### Uganda: Museveni Receives Burundian Defense Minister

EA0808163496 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1000 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Museveni has met with Colonel Firmin Sinzoyiheba [defense minister] from Burundi who called on him at his home in Rwakitura, Nyabushozi County, in Mbarara District. Col. Sinzoyiheba briefed the president about the situation in Burundi since the military takeover by the Army. With Colonel Sinzoyiheba was Lieutenant Colonel Longin Minani [Army spokesman].

#### South Africa: Police Search for 3 'Foreigners' Hijacked in Johannesburg

MB0908064996 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is still no news on the fate of the three foreigners who were abducted by car hijackers in Johannesburg last night. A police spokesperson said this morning that an extensive search through the night had not produced any results.

There's been speculation that the three were British diplomats, but a spokesperson for the British consulate in Johannesburg says their names do not appear on the list of diplomats. He could also not confirm that they are British citizens.

The three were hijacked less than two hours after they arrived in South Africa. They were collected at Johannesburg airport by a chauffeur-driven tours minibus, and were on their way to a Sandton hotel when their vehicle was hijacked. We contacted police spokesperson Deon Peens:

[Begin Peens recording] Apparently, according to the driver, near the Marlboro bridge there were some lights in the road which (?made) them slow down and he pulled over. Five hijackers — five armed men — hijacked the vehicle, pulled them out and took off with the three tourists in the direction of Alexandra township. We've got the Johannesburg Flying Squad and members of the Highway Patrol that are still searching the area, and, if it is deemed necessary, we'll use the police helicopter during the morning. [end recording].

The metallic brown minibus has the company's name and the registration number PSG222T painted on the doors and roof.

# South Africa: Intelligence Official—'No Evidence' of Muslim Extremists

MB0808123196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The police have confiscated six petrol bombs during simultaneous raids on a number of homes believed to be owned by Cape Town drug lords. [passage omitted]

Spokesperson for the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee Mo Shaik says reports alleging that militant Muslim extremists are active in South Africa are based on rumors. Shaik said rumors in this regard had been investigated and, so far, no evidence could be found. He said the intelligence agencies always investigated any possible threats to the security of the state. Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi earlier refused to deny or confirm reports of an investigation.

In Port Elizabeth, local Muslim leader Shaik Ibrahim Essop has not ruled out the possibility that the Port Elizabeth [PE] Muslim community could mobilize efforts to root out gangsterism in the city. However, he emphasized that an anti-gang campaign could be nonviolent. Shaik Essop said Muslim leaders would call a religious meeting soon to discuss gang violence in the city. He said he did not know of any Muslims being trained at paramilitary bases or of any Hamas activities in PE.

In Johannesburg, the Muslim group Youth for Enlightenment and Education has said drug lords could face strong vigilante action. The organization this morning staged a demonstration near the Golden Highway to support the killing of Cape gang leader Rashaad Staggie. Spokesperson Osman Sahib said the group could follow the same course of action as its counterpart in Cape Town.

Following the demonstration, Safety and Security MEC [Member of the Executive Council] Jesse Duarte has warned that the Gauteng government will take strong measures against any vigilante group that takes the law into their own hands against criminal activity:

[Begin Duarte recording] We are quite clear about this. If people take the law into their own hands and it results in violence, in death, in damage to property, we will act against them, just as we act against criminal elements in this province. [end recording]

Duarte also announced the establishment of a special Gauteng police task team to focus on drugs and illegal firearms.

# South Africa: Secret Militant Moslem Cells Said 'Active' in Country

MB0808151396 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 7 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Eugene Yssel]

[FBIS Translated Text] Secret cells of militant Moslems trained by extremist Islamic groups have been uncovered in South Africa. The South African Intelligence Service came upon the activities of the cells following a request by Israel that South Africa investigate allegations that members of the international terrorist organization, Hizballah [Party of God] are training militants at five bases in South Africa.

The government is said to be very concerned over the presence of the militants. It is not known whether Hizballah, which has been responsible for many bomb attacks in Israel, are involved in the training, or who is providing the training. The weekend attack in which Mr. Rashaad Staggie, coleader of Cape Town's Hard Livings gang, was brutally murdered by a Moslem group, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, has again raised the question of Moslem extremism in South Africa. According to a highly placed government source who did not want his name used, the cells are active in the Western Cape and Durban.

Intelligence authorities believe the presence of extremists is relatively limited, because they have been able to sniff out only "about 20 extremists" to date. They operate from private houses and their activities are continuously monitored. In April, the Department of Foreign Affairs' made an official comment that these allegations are viewed in a very serious light. The department added that investigations are "ongoing".

Yesterday the department said it would refer information on such matters to the police and intelligence agencies, once it was aware of them. The spokesperson could not say whether such information had already been given to these agencies. However, BEELD has learned that the intelligence services have conveyed such information to government at a senior level.

In April, Mr. Eytan Bentsur, then deputy director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveyed his government's concern about the "rapid increase of extremist activities in South Africa to our country's ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mr. Malcolm Ferguson. The South African Government said at the time that it had noted "with concern" the views of the Israeli Government.

A spokesman for the South African Intelligence Service yesterday referred BEELD's inquiries on the matter to the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee which, at the time of going to press last night, had not reacted.

#### South Africa: Minister Declines To Comment on Rumors of Libyan Training

MB0808155496 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1500 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, has declined to say if police are investigating rumors of Libyan or other foreign involvement in a South n Islamic vigilante group, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, known as PAGAD. A Moslem journalist in Cape Town claimed that he has visited a secret camp outside the city where Moslems were receiving military training to combat what they saw as moral corruption permeating the country. PAGAD has been implicated in the death on

Sunday [4 August] night of a leader of Cape Town gang, The Hard Livings, Rashaad Staggie.

#### South Africa: KwaZulu/Natal Jihad Group Pledges Support for PAGAD

MB0808161996 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1458 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PIETERMARITZBURG Aug 8 SAPA — The KwaZulu-Natal chapter of the Jihad Movement of South Africa [JMSA] on Thursday [8 August] pledged spiritual [word indistinct] and physical support for the warring People Against Gangsterism and Drugs in the Cape [PAGAD].

The pledge followed the weekend's incidents in which hundreds of PAGAD members attacked the home of an alleged leader of the Hard Livings gang Rashaad Staggie who was shot and burnt to death on Sunday [4 August] night on the Cape Flats.

In a statement from Pietermaritzburg, the chapter said it supported "the struggle of our brothers and sisters in the Cape who fight against the combined satanic forces of the gangsters and overlords".

"The time has come for people to stand up and show commitment instead of just making empty talk," the JMSA said. "Armchair theologians and [word indistinct] for the shamelessness that we have to face everyday, must likewise be condemned."

The JMSA said the support PAGAD had received so far had been overwhelming and "recourse for all Godfearing communities to lend support for the only viable action against the satanic forces".

#### South Africa: New Zealand Premier, Mandela Sign Nuclear Treaty 8 Aug

MB0808172796 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africa and New Zealand have signed a nuclear disarmament treaty which they hope will ultimately lead to a global ban on nuclear weapons. The treaty was signed in Cape Town by President Nelson Mandela and the visiting New Zealand prime minister, Jim Bolger. Bolger said the agreement would add further strength to the international treaty which bans the testing of nuclear weapons. The two leaders also signed agreements on trade and investment. Bolger's official visit to South Africa ends on Saturday [10 August] after he attends the rugby match between the Springboks and the All Blacks at Newlands in Cape Town.

South Africa: South African Press Review for 8 Aug MB0808130596

[FBIS Report]

#### THE STAR

Holomisa 'Out of Favour' With ANC - Former Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa's clashes with the ANC leadership has put him "out of favour in a big way," according to Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 8 August in a page-20 editorial. Firstly, the paper believes this issue is not an internal ANC affair but "a public one and the sooner our governing party brings it out into the open, the better." Secondly, it seems "the ANC did receive money" from hotel magnate Sol Kerzner and "Holomisa is in trouble exactly because he told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that a member of the Cabinet, Stella Sigcau, received some of that money." THE STAR concludes that "the public is entitled to know whether the organisation or any of its senior meGan Poxeceived 'favours' or money from a man who has clearly broken the laws of the land."

#### **BUSINESS DAY**

Zambia's Chiluba Tries To 'Sell' Flawed Constitution — "Zambia should know better than to try to sell a flawed constitution in a country whose previous governments spend most of this century extolling the democratic virtues of patently undemocratic arrangements," begins a page-16 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 8 August. Zambian President Chiluba "would have us believe that constitutional amendments which bar former president Kenneth Kaunda from standing in the October elections were not aimed at Kaunda and anyway are the wish of the Zambian people; he tries to tell us that Western donors who suspended aid to Zambia do not understand the situation." However, BUSINESS DAY believes that if Zambians hate Kaunda "then they will not vote for him. If Chiluba is the democrat and civil rights reformer he started out as, he will let Kaunda stand and stop bullying local newspapers. If he is no better than his predecessor, a charm offensive will change nothing."

#### CAPE TIMES

NP 'Not Bold Enough' About Change — Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 6 August in a page-8 editorial finds it "remarkable and fortunate" that the National Party, NP, has been able to change itself from "being a sectarian and racist party into a conservative non-racial movement that wants to tackle poverty." "Regrettably, however, the NP is not being bold enough." The NP is "still trying to appease its traditional white base — and at the same time win support from other communities." Furthermore, "by ignoring its shameful past, the NP hopes to wipe out the Democratic Party and the Freedom Front. South African voters are, fortunately, unlikely to fall for such an obvious political trap."

#### Malawi

#### Malawi: Former President Banda's Party Wins By-Election

AB0808193396 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Blantyre, 8 Aug (AFP) — The Malawi Congress Party (MCP) of former president Hastings Kamuzu Banda was declared the winner Thursday [8 August] in a disputed by-election in Nsanje District in the south of the country.

The ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) of President Bakili Muluzi had complained that some people had cast votes without producing registration certificates

Electoral Commission spokesman Morgan Mayani said the complaints had been thoroughly investigated and it was decided that any irregularities would not have had much impact on the overall result. "Admittedly there were irregularities but the matter goes to the police," he said.

The MCP's Sylvester Vazhi beat the UDF's Salim Phoso by 293 votes, giving Banda's party a total of 55 seats in the 177-member parliament. The ruling party has 83 seats, leaving it short of a simple majority.

It had previously counted on the support of the 34 MP's of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), but its coalition with that party collapsed in June. Five other seats are still to be contested in by-elections after deaths and defections of MP's.

#### Zambia

#### Zambia: Minister—RSA Bomb Experts Helping To Fight Black Mamba

MB0908105796 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1115 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Ben Mwila has commended South African bomb experts for helping

Zambia deal with the volatile situation created by the activities of the clandestine Black Mamba organization. Mr. Mwila, who was speaking when chief of [South Africa National] Defense Force's General George Meiring called on him today, said South Africa helped in solving the problem by sending two bomb experts to Zambia.

Zambia was engulfed in a state of panic and confusion when a bomb went off at Lusaka International Airport, killing one policeman. There were also a series of bomb threats reported from several parts of the countries several weeks ago.

And Gen. Meiring, who is also chairman of Inter-State Defense Committee, which groups defense forces of the SADC [Southern African Development Community] region, said one of his organization's priorities is to ensure that peace and stability prevail in the SADC region. He said the Inter-State Defense Committee has made leaps forward, giving the region a solid front for safety and stability. He stressed that peacekeeping has been one of the strongest points of the committee. Gen. Meiring pointed out during a meeting with Zambia's security and defense chiefs that the Inter-State Defense Committee still has the task of tackling illegal border crossing and drug trafficking.

#### The Gambia

#### The Gambia: First Results Said in Favor of Draft Constitution

AB0908105096 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 9 Aug 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Ama Annan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Annan] Results are coming in this morning from the referendum held in Gambia yesterday. People were being asked to endorse a new constitution to reintroduce civilian rule in the country. Well, on the line I have Ibrahima Cisse in Banjul. Good morning Ibrahima!

[Cisse] Good morning, Ama!

[Annan] So, what is the picture?

[Cisse] With the results of 23 out of the 41 constituencies declared, it seems the Constitution is certainly going to be adopted. In these 23 constituencies, 74 percent of the voters have voted yes.

[Annan] So, how did the voting go? Was it smooth and peaceful?

[Cisse] It has been smooth, it has been apolitical, it has been orderly, and as we speak now, there has been no report of any foul play or any intimidation. Everything has gone fine.

[Annan] If this Constitution goes through as it now looks likely to, where are we going to go from here?

[Cisse] Well, the endorsement of the constitution is really an important step toward moving this country to democracy. If the Constitution is adopted, then it means we have paved the way to democracy. This is why in spite of the fact that it does have some fundamental defects, most Gambians feel that it should be adopted and later improved upon.

[Annan] Do Gambians really know what they were voting for?

[Cisse] Well, the educated ones were clear, you know, of what was going on. The illiterate did not seem to know what really was going on, but as far as the educated ones are concerned, they got the message, and we have a number of people who are educated so, at least about 40 percent of the population did know what they were voting for.

(Annan) When are we expecting the final results, the full and final result?

[Cisse] In two hours' time, everything will have been over, but really, the turn seems to insinuate that the draft [constitution] is going to be adopted.

#### The Gambia: Referendum on Draft Constitution Held; Big Turnout Reported

AB0808223896 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Aug 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Polls close in The Gambia in about an hour's time in the referendum on a new Constitution to take the country back to civilian rule after elections as early as next month, but the process has come under international criticism. The final draft wasn't published until last Friday [2 August]. There are still no political parties. It all seems to be rather rushed, and there are claims that the new Constitution almost guarantees military leader Yahya Jammeh will step into the presidential shoes. Certainly, he has been urging Gambians to cast their votes in big numbers today. On the line to Banjul, Josephine Hazely asked our correspondent Ibrahima Cisse how big the turnout has been.

[Begin recording] [Cisse] The first thing, I was amazed to see how people, even elderly ones, have come out in large numbers to cast their votes. I went to the polls as early as 9 AM, but up till now I have not cast my votes. Actually, over 400,000 people have registered, but I want to believe that at least at the end of the day the turnout is going to be over 70 percent.

[Hazely] Why didn't you cast your vote?

[Cisse] Simply because of the long queue. I mean, people are queuing. Interestingly, you see elderly men and women.

[Hazely] Is this only in the capital or are you getting news from outside of the capital?

[Cisse] I spoke to my colleagues in the rural areas and they have also told me a similar story. They are also amazed by the number of people they have in various polling stations. So it's a very good turnout.

[Hazely] Do they know — the people of The Gambia — what exactly they are voting for, because prior to today's vote, we understand there was confusion in the public mind as to what it is they are supposed to be voting for?

[Cisse] Well, the educated ones know the implications of voting for yes or no, but the illiterates really do not seem to know what the whole exercise is all about. In fact, I spoke to an old lady who gave me the impression that if she votes yes then it means she is just endorsing the presidency of Chairman Jammeh. In other words, she is just supporting the tenure of office of Captain Yahya Jammeh.

[Hazely] Now, how is the voting being done exactly? What is the procedure, briefly?

[Cisse] Well, the voter goes to the polling station where he is registered and shows his or her voters card to the presiding officer, who in turn will check the name and number of the voter on the computer printout he has on his table. If the presiding officer is satisfied, he gives the voter a marble and the voter then goes and casts his ballot, his [word indistinct], into the yes or no box. Of course, he is also asked to put his finger in an indelible ink so that he will not be in the position to vote again.

[Hazely] Now, is everything being done orderly? Are people finding their names on the list of voters?

[Cisse] Well, I have visited a number of polling stations in the Greater Banjul area and so far the voting has been apolitical, peaceful, and orderly. There have been no reports of incidents suggesting manipulations. Everything is fine as we speak now. [end recording]

Although politics and political parties are still officially banned in The Gambia, would-be politicians are straining underneath to take part in the forthcoming elections. Among them Halifa Sallah, spokesman for the PDOIS [People's Democratic Organization for Independence and Socialism] party, before it was outlawed, and editor of the (FERAYA) newspaper. On the line to Banjul, Josephine Hazely asked him what he thought of the proceedings so far.

[Begin recording] [Sallah] So far, there have been some little complications here and there, but it appears to be moving smoothly.

[Hazely] So as a banned politician of whatever complexion you are quite happy with how things have gone today?

[Sallah] Well, yes, so far, so far.

[Hazely] You said there were little complications here and there; what were they?

[Sallah] You know, this is the fourth exercise by a provisional independent electoral commission, and they are using very sophisticated machinery like computers. It seems that certain computer printouts left the names of certain people out, but it seems they have rectified it by ensuring that those who come with their voters cards are given the opportunity. Even if they do not see their names in the computer printout, they can still vote.

[Hazely] So as a politician are you happy with the contents of the draft constitution?

[Sallah] Well, you know, if you look at the draft constitution it has certain provisions which are democratic provisions. It calls for power to emanate from the will of the people; it calls for Gambians to elect their president and members of the National Assembly; it calls for the establishment of an independent electoral commission. So as far as that is concerned, from our own perspective, it is a democratic constitution, and it can facilitate that transfer. Secondly also, it has transitional provisions which indicate how AFPRC [Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council] will hand over executive authority to the new president — elected president — and legislative authority to the new National Assembly. So from that essence, we feel that it is a document which is useful to facilitate the transfer.

[Hazely] So what don't you like?

[Sallah] Here, for example, is a provision which indicates that a person who wishes to be a candidate for the National Assembly should be resident in a particular constituency for one year before nomination. Of course, we have many qualified people who cannot possibly be resident in these various constituencies, even if they have originated from there, because of work and things of that nature. So consequently, one can say that these are limitations which are not desirable.

[Hazely] International human rights groups have criticized the constitution in saying that it indemnifies all the wrongs that the present administration would have done. I mean, are you happy that this constitution will free these military rulers from accounting for their actions?

[Sallah] I think what must be understood is the nature of the country. This country does not belong to the military, it does not belong to me or anybody. The whole question is, they are in power at the moment, how are they going to hand over power? You have two options. One, you fight them and take them there, or two, you negotiate with them and facilitate transfer of power, and that is peaceful transition or violence — a contradiction. My position is that violence is very expensive. It's better we try peaceful transition. [end recording]

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